

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**HURRICANE KATRINA INFORMATION**

September 15, 2005

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-56-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CAPI PROGRAM MANAGERS**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVACUEES OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

This All-County Information Notice (ACIN) provides instructions to counties when considering eligibility for Hurricane Katrina evacuees arriving in California, for the following programs: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), the Personal Care Services Program (PCSP), IHSS Plus Waiver (IPW), the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) program, and Adult Protective Services (APS). Evacuee applications must be treated expeditiously when evacuees request benefits in California.

IHSS/PCSP/IPW

The written statement of the applicant is acceptable to establish his or her intention to establish residency in California for purposes of determining IHSS-Residual eligibility. For example, many evacuees may wish to eventually return to their home state once it is allowable, safe and feasible to do so, but are unlikely to know when that will occur. Please note, however, that PCSP and IPW are Medi-Cal benefits and eligibility for these programs is based on Medi-Cal rules. Please refer to the Department of Health Services (DHS), All County Welfare Directors Letter 05-03, dated September 9, 2005, for county instructions on actions to take for evacuees who apply for Medi-Cal in California. Additionally, preliminary discussions with DHS have indicated there may be a federal waiver of some of the verification rules for Medi-Cal eligibility. DHS will issue specific instructions if any federal waiver is implemented.

These displaced persons may also be considered to be living in their "own home" for purposes of authorizing services under IHSS-Residual, PCSP or IPW, even if they are living in a shelter or another's household so long as they choose to reside and receive services there.

CAPI

Hurricane Katrina evacuees arriving in California are to be considered residents of California for purposes of determining CAPI eligibility. As with all CAPI cases, however, payment cannot be effective until the first of the month following their arrival, assuming all other eligibility factors are met as of their arrival date. SSI/SSP rules (which CAPI follows) allow for eligibility to be determined based on the person's allegation regarding income and resources when documents have been lost and no third-party verification is possible, i.e. records have been destroyed or are otherwise inaccessible.

In-kind income can also be excluded under SSI/SSP rules when it is provided to someone who lived independently before a federally-declared disaster and is now living with someone else, in a shelter, or in other arrangements due to the disaster. Federal SSI/SSP rules also allow for exclusion of any Disaster Assistance and any funds received to replace lost or stolen items.

SSI/SSP

Displaced persons should contact their local Social Security Administration (SSA) office or call SSA tollfree at (800) 772-1213, for all information related to SSI/SSP or Social Security benefits.

APS

Delivery of all Adult Protective Services to this population can occur immediately. The written statement of applicants is acceptable to establish the intention to establish residency in California for the foreseeable future; and may they be referred for APS services, unless they are living in a long-term care facility.

Flagging Evacuee Cases

Counties shall devise a method for identifying evacuee cases, to allow case data to be easily extracted upon request from CDSS.

Any questions regarding this ACIN should be directed to the Adult Programs Branch, Operations and Technical Assistance Unit, at (916) 229-4000.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. CARLIN
Acting Deputy Director
Disability and Adult Programs Division